(b) and (c) No, Sir. The decision to carry out joint sampling at the loading end was taken by the Government keeping in view all the relevant aspects. Specific consumption of coal by power houses has been showing a downward trend over the years.

(d) The amount under dispute by the State Electricity Boards with Coal India Limited on quality ground has been of the order of about Rs. 880 crores (Provisional) as on 31.3.1997.

In keeping with world-wide commercial practice, the loading end is the logical one for ascertaining the quality and quantity of coal despatches to consumers. This is also in accordance with the Sale of Goods Act, 1930.

Hike in prices of power grade coal by CIL

3039. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times decisions have been taken to hike the prices of power grade coal by the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) through Administrative orders during the last three years;

(b) the details of the price hike on each time during the above period;

(c) whether the CIL is considering to hike prices of power grade coal further; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The prices of power grade coal viz. D,E,F & G were last fixed by the Central Government on 16.6.1994. In respect of Western Coalfields Ltd. only, the prices of these grades of coal were enhanced to the level of the grade prices of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. w.e.f. 22.3.96 as notified in June '94. Subsequent to deregulation of pricing of 'D' grade of non-coking coal w.e.f. 12.3.97 and allowing CIL to fix the prices of E,F & G grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 13.3.97. Coal India Limited have fixed the prices of these grades of coal on 31.3.97.

(b) The details of the prices of these grades of coal as notified by the Government on 16.6.94 and the prices fixed by CIL on 31.3.97 are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) CIL has been authorised to revise the prices of E,F & G grades of coal once in six months upto 1st January, 2000 in accordance with an escalation formula contained in the 1987 report of BICP. As far as pricing of 'D' grade of coal is concerned CIL is competent to fix it in relation to the market prices after its deregulation w.e.f. 12.3.97.

Statement

(Rs. per tonne)

Grade	ROM Prices of coal as fixed on 16.6.94	ROM Prices of coal for ECL CCL & BCCL fixed on 31.3.97	ROM Price of coal for ECL (RajMahal project) fixed on 31.3.97	ROM Prices of coal for MCL as fixed on 31.3.97	ROM Prices of coal for WCL as fixed on 31.3.97
D	406.00	524.00	667.00	504.00	754.00
E	322.00	416.00	559.00	400.00	627.00
F	257.00	332.00	475.00	319.00	523.00
G	183.00	237.00	380.00	227.00	304.00

ऊर्जा क्षेत्र में कोयले के इस्तेमाल में कमी होना

3040. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1975 में देश में 62% ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता कोयले द्वारा पूरी की जाती थी;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का आकलन क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्ष 1995 तक देश में केवल 32% ऊर्जा संबंधी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति कोयले से होती थी;